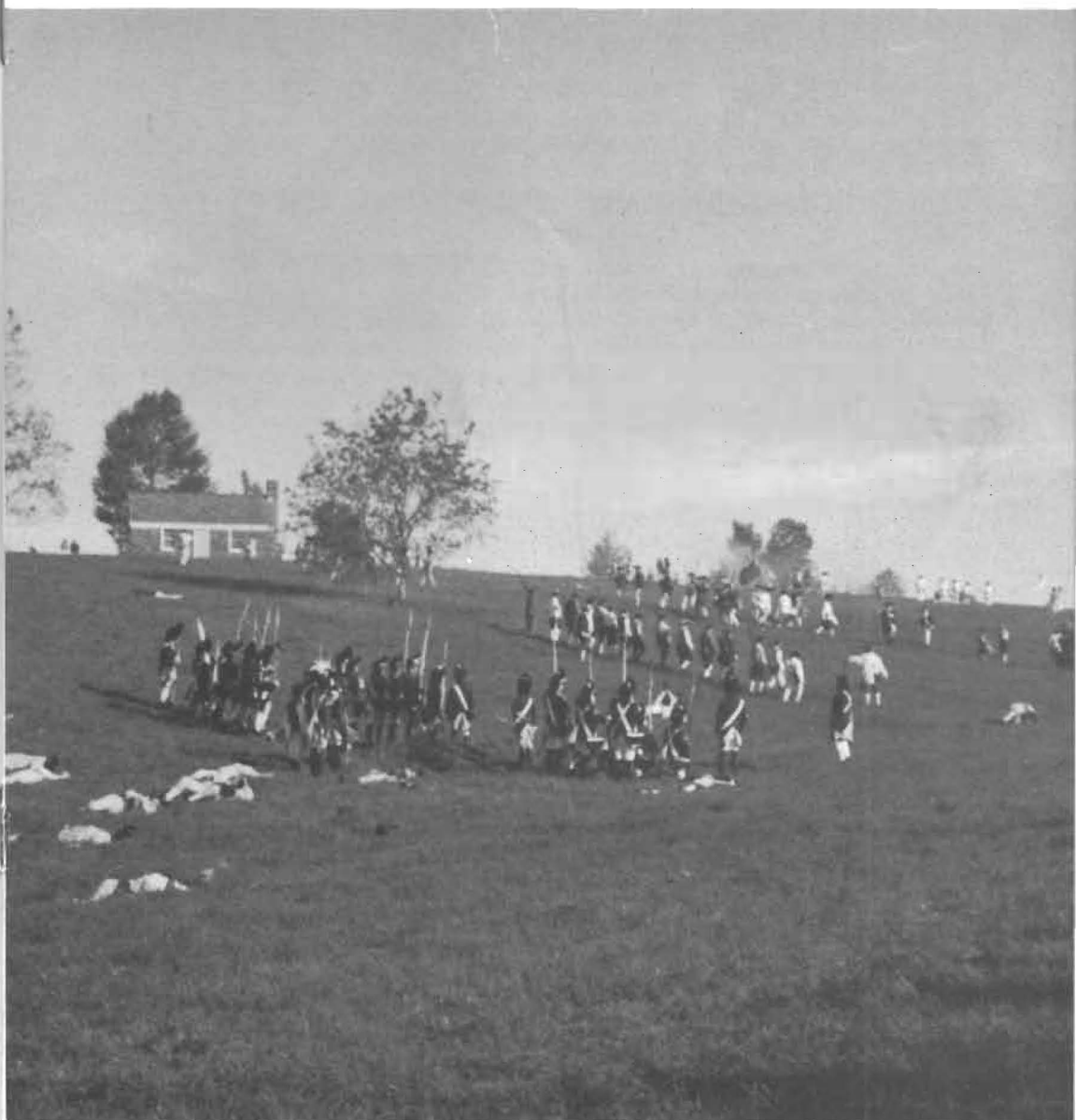


RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

VOLUME VII No. 3

SUMMER 1977



Rutland Historical Society - 101 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont

The Society publishes the *Quarterly* for its members in the interests of preserving and studying the history of the Rutland Community which comprises the towns of West Rutland, Proctor, Rutland and the City of Rutland. The Society maintains and operates a museum and resources center at 101 Center Street, Rutland, in the former Bank of Rutland Building (1825), now owned by the City of Rutland and loaned free of charge to the Society.

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of annual dues which are:

Regular—\$2.00

Contributing—\$10.00

Life (one payment)—\$75.00

Sustaining—\$100.00 per year

Gifts of money or articles of historic interest are welcome at all times and are deductible for tax purposes since the Society is a certified non-profit corporation chartered by the State of Vermont and certified by the IRS.

Editor: F. P. Elwert

EVENTS AND REPORTS

The annual meeting of the Society will be held Tuesday, October 18, 1977 at 7:30 P.M., place to be announced. A nominating committee headed by Attorney Arthur E. Crowley, Jr. will submit nominations for the officers and three members of the Board of Directors. After the election of officers a speaker, to be named later, will highlight the meeting.

The Society will again operate a Farm Museum at the Rutland Fairgrounds during Fair Week. Two converted cattle barns house a collection of farm and domestic equipment. Hours are from noon to six P.M., Sept. 4 to 10, 1977.

The House Tour Committee reports net receipts of well over \$200.00 from the June 18th House Tour which attracted 76 visitors. The success of this venture calls for an encore.

The Society has again availed itself of the Work Study program of St. Michael's College and sophomore Robert W. Brunelle, Jr. is staffing the Museum this summer. Bob catalogs new acquisitions (the number of them at this writing is at 999) and performs odd jobs during the mornings and acts as host from 1 to 5 P.M. each day except Monday. One project under way this summer is a storage cabinet for the Society's costumes. Another is the stocking of our storage bin at Todd Transportation. The Museum's room for its collections is bulging.!

Annual dues are payable October 1 and the Treasurer, mindful of every possible cost, has received approval of the Board of Directors to abolish the expensive cost of printing and mailing membership cards. The status of each members dues will be indicated by the number on the mailing label of each issue of the *Quarterly*. Thus, 76 on the label means dues have been paid for the year ending October 1976; 77 means dues are current and will be payable October 1, 1977.

Even with this cost-cutting economy measure the expense of printing and mailing the *Quarterly* is very close to the \$2.00 regular membership dues. Although the Society receives an annual grant from the City of Rutland (and the Society is proud that its own generated income exceeds the grant) it is largely through the generosity of its contributing members and special projects such as the House Tour that the Society is able to perform its function. Old regular members and prospective members are encouraged to avail themselves of other categories of membership.

BOOK REVIEW

Eric Sloane. *I Remember America*. NY: Ballantine Books. 1977. 184 pp. illus. paperback. \$6.95.

Eric Sloane not only draws and paints—he has something to say, which, of course, is true of all artists. Those familiar with his name will recognize Sloane as the fellow who draws with unbelievable economy those sketches of barns and old tools. In this book he writes of those reasons which compell him to draw as he does. These short essays, ranging from the sky to the railroads, are accompanied by the artist's usual superbly done sketches and oils. It is fitting that one who can set down in a sketch book a spring house should be able to write convincingly about one.

The publishers have subtitled the book "A beloved artist/writer's rapturous vision of our country's yesterday." It is more—for it is also an expression of reverence for those seemingly boundless, yet fragile, resources which we contemptuously squander—pristine swamps, pure air, clear water—but which we must learn to use wisely for the benefit of unborn generations.

A plus are the full-color reproductions of Sloane's oils which, at times, remind one of Andrew Wyeth or, closer to home, Emelie Perkins.

F.P.E.

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Treasurer's Report
June 30, 1977

	Year ending June 30	
	1977	1976
GENERAL FUND		
Taken in:		
From Rutland City	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Members' dues: Contributing	560.00	410.00
Regular	720.00	650.00
Gifts and sales	700.34	294.88
Grant from Vermont Historical Society	520.00	
Pictorial History of Rutland	574.00	
House Tour	360.00	
Interest on bank balances	86.35	90.01
Other		2.00
	<u>\$5,020.69</u>	<u>\$2,946.89</u>
Spent:		
Quarterly—printing and mailing	\$1,335.30	\$ 862.29
Other stationery, postage, etc.	397.74	224.61
Meetings	82.00	79.04
Exhibits and Library	631.91	441.34
Building operation	859.98	459.31
Publicity	154.97	101.34
Insurance	500.00	212.00
Storage	352.92	
Curator's assistance	330.83	
"Rutland 1912" movie	1,094.00	
Pictorial History of Rutland	35.50	
House Tour expenses	30.29	
Other	65.00	65.00
	<u>\$5,870.44</u>	<u>\$2,444.93</u>
Overspent	\$ 849.75	
Not spent		\$ 501.96
Cash balances:		
Beginning of period	1,272.18	770.22
End of period	<u>\$ 422.43</u>	<u>\$1,272.18</u>
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND		
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 300.00	\$ 225.00
Received	300.00	75.00
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 600.00</u>	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
Interest on this fund is taken into the General Fund		
BUILDING FUND		
Contributions received	\$ 395.00	
Interest	17.13	
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 412.13</u>	
PICTORIAL HISTORY FUND		
Pre-publication sales, ending June 15, 1977	\$4,948.50	
Interest	55.86	
	<u>\$5,004.36</u>	
Less: Spent on preparation	\$488.45	
Transferred to General Fund	<u>574.00</u>	
	1,062.45	
Balance at end of period	<u>\$3,941.91</u>	

THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 1977

(Continued)

MEMBERSHIP AT JUNE 30

	1977	1976
Dues paid to September 30 following		
Regular	322	308
Contributing	40	38
Dues paid beyond September 30 following		
Regular	8	5
Contributing	9	
Life members	8	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total in good standing	387	355
Dues paid to previous September 30	59	81
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	446	436

Life Members

Miss Carolyn Lee Allen, Rutland, Vermont
Miss Vera V. Egelston, Rutland, Vermont
Mrs. John Kenney, Springfield, Massachusetts
Mrs. George L. Kirk, Rutland, Vermont
Mr. Sanborn Partridge, Proctor, Vermont
Mrs. Anne Felton Spencer, Cuttingsville, Vermont
Mr. Carleton Wilson, Rutland, Vermont
Mrs. Earl S. Wright, Rutland, Vermont

Contributing Members

Mrs. J. Edward Baker	Mrs. Julia B. Granger	Mr. & Mrs. Alan G. Ridlon
Mrs. Julia M. Blake	Dr. William M. Hang	Dr. John E. Rogers
Mrs. John H. Bloomer	Mrs. Patricia W. Hewitt	Mrs. Donald Ross
Mrs. Albina C. Boni	Mr. Hannibal Hodges	Mrs. Jean C. Ross
Miss Mary Louise Burditt	Mr. Raymond A. Hughes	Mr. & Mrs. Victor A. Seigny
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Covalt	Mrs. Dan Korngiebel	Mr. E. Farley Sharp
Rev. & Mrs. David J. Dean	Rev. John A. Lynch	Mr. Richard N. Sharp
Deere & Company	Mr. J. Robert Maguire	Dr. Gordon B. Smith
Mr. James B. Dorr	The Marble Savings Bank	Mr. Henry Z. Steinway
Mrs. Helen R. Dutton	Mrs. Byron O. McCoy	Miss Adele M. Stokes
Col. Barbara E. Earle	Mrs. Dora J. Metzger	Mr. & Mrs. Archibald J. Todd
Mr. Thomas K. Egan	Mr. Peter B. Millett	Mrs. Paul W. Toth
Miss Margaret M. Elwert	Mr. Robert F. Moore	Mrs. Elizabeth K. Wild
Mrs. Amelia F. Emerson	Mr. J. F. O'Shea	Mr. Leonard F. Wing, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Fisher	Mr. Ellery R. Purdy	R. N. Wissell Heating and Plumbing, Inc.

George J. Covalt, *Treasurer*

V. PROCLAMATION FOR A FAST.

A PROCLAMATION.

Since God has been pleased in his wisdom to visit the inhabitants of this land with his just judgments by suffering our unnatural enemies to wage war against us, the pestilence to prevail and the many other calamities with which we are now threatened as a just reward for the many prevailing sins committed against the Divine Law, we have sufficient reason to believe calls aloud on his people for solemn Fasting and Prayer. We have, therefore, thought fit to appoint and do hereby appoint Wednesday the 18th day of June instant to be observed as a day of public fasting and prayer throughout this state and do earnestly recommend to the good people thereof to observe the same as such, that we may humble our hearts before God and implore Him to avert the impending judgments, remove the sword of our unnatural enemies from us, sanctify the awful frowns of Divine Providence, grant His blessings on our councils and arms and direct our generals, guard this state from the invasion of the savages, direct in our election of members for establishing government, bless the labors of our hands, grant suitable seasons for the year for seed time and harvest and crown the year with His goodness, revive religion and virtue, Bless the ministers of the gospel and water his churches with heavenly grace. And it is hereby recommended to all the good people of this state to abstain from secular labor and recreation on that day.

Given at Windsor in the state of Vermont in General Convention, the 7th day of June Anno 1777.

By order,

JOSEPH BOWKER, *President.*

JONAS FAY, *Secretary.*²

² A manuscript copy of the above proclamation, certified by Martin Powell, assistant clerk, is found in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, in volume 35, *Miscellaneous*, p. 54.

From the date of the above proclamation it would appear that the convention was in session not less than four days.

A measure of Joseph Bowker's importance is this proclamation, one of the earliest of its kind in the new Republic of Vermont. From the Vermont Historical Society's *Collections*. Vol. I, 1870.

GUIDE TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE RUTLAND COMMUNITY A SEQUEL

The fall issue of the *Quarterly*, devoted to the architecture of Rutland has been well received. From Southbridge, Massachusetts a staunch member, Arthur Kavanaugh, sends us a copy of "A Walk through . . . Southbridge (Mass.) prepared by the Southbridge Historical Commission. The format is that of a tabloid supplement in the Sunday edition of a local newspaper and is restricted to the "main street" of town but the treatment is much more detailed than our guide. We are encouraged by this example to attempt at some time in the near future to prepare a series of localized tours which will try to catch the flavor of small neighborhoods. Anyone willing to assist in such a project is encouraged to contact the editor.

Copies of the *Guide*, incidentally, are available at the Museum, at Tuttle's, Hartford Bookshop and Seigny's in West Rutland at \$1.50 per copy (\$2.00 if mailed). Back issues of the *Quarterly* are also available at the Museum as well as back issues of *Vermont Life* and *National Geographic* magazines.

The editors of the Rutland Pictorial History report that due to an unexpected wealth of material—photographs, etc.—the date of issue will be unavoidably delayed to sometime early this fall. The Vermont Bicentennial Commission has awarded the Society a grant of \$1,000.00 to defray expenses of this book. Subscribers to the book are asked to be indulgent while the editors labor at their tasks.

Have you visited the Museum lately? Now on exhibit: Helen Koltonski—and the Girls at Riverside; a country kitchen from Sodom; Captain Gilmore and his house at 83 Center Street; and others. Exhibits changed now and then.

Repairs and renovations to the Museum hopefully will be underway this summer under the Historic Sites Preservation Project if a gap between the budgetted sum and the lowest bid can be bridged.

Did you know that at the Museum the Society has a Gift Corner where surplus books, pamphlets and odds and ends are on sale, the proceeds being used to support the operating expenses of the Museum?

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Analyzing the names of the streets in Rutland can be a pleasant summer-time diversion. Most are commonplace—named after topographic or cultural features; such as Main, Park, East, High. Others are named after locally celebrated people—Dorr, Kingsley, Mussey, Baxter. Some are named after national heroes—Coolidge, Washington, Lincoln, Jackson. Many recent streets derive their name from a developer or his wife—Giorgetti, LaVerne.

Four streets, of short length and modest width, lying south of Jackson Avenue have been given the first four letters of the alphabet—almost as though they were so designated as a temporary measure until a fitting name were found. We refer, of course, to Avenue A, Avenue B, Avenue C and Avenue D.

These four streets are laid out on the farm of the first settler in the vicinity; a man whose name should be a byword in Rutland—the enigmatic Joseph Bowker, town treasurer, deacon, member of the Governor's Council and President of the Vermont Conventions which declared the independence of the state and drafted Vermont's Constitution.

What could be a more apt name for Avenue B than Bowker Avenue. It would keep his memory green in the minds of the hundreds of children who pass along that street daily for a swim or a game of ball.

For Avenue A, might not the name of Alvord (or Alford) be appropriate? Benedict Alvord was an early freeholder in town; William Alvord lived a few blocks away on South Main Street where he maintained the first cabinetmaking shop; his son, Benjamin, was at one time paymaster-general of the United States Army.

For Avenue C a fitting name comes readily to mind, for Nathaniel Chipman, a pioneer lawyer and a judge on the Vermont Supreme Court when it was first established. Chipman owned a large part of the Bowker farm and his brothers Daniel and Darius were later owners up to 1822.

Avenue D, as well as parts of Avenues B and C, was once owned by Bela Dexter, builder of the Longfellow School in 1890 and a resident of the house, still standing, at the corner of East and Jackson. The Dexter family sold many of the building lots in this vicinity and Avenue D might well be named Dexter Avenue.

This proposal is being communicated to the residents of these avenues with the hope that if they think well of it a petition be presented to the Board of Aldermen.

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
101 CENTER STREET
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701**

